APPENDIX L
CREATED OPENINGS > 40 ACRES

OPENINGS OVER 40 ACRES

Direction in Forest Service Manual 2471.1 states that the size of openings created by even-aged silvicultural treatments in the Northern Rockies will normally be 40 acres or less, with certain exceptions. One of those exceptions includes catastrophic events such as fire, windstorms, or insect and disease attacks. In theses cases, the 40-acre limitation may be exceeded without 60-day public review and without Regional Forester approval, provided the public is notified and the environmental analysis supports the decision. This documentation of the proposed creation of these openings constitutes public notification.

Implementation of any of the action alternatives would create some openings that are greater than 40 acres in size. Average stocking levels of trees in these openings would vary from zero to as many as 30 trees per acre depending on tree species and condition of individual trees. Snags and green tree replacements should remain where available based on the table in appendix K. All of these openings have been precipitated by the action of catastrophic events, in this case insect attacks and disease. The units themselves range in size from 1 to 81 acres in size. However, some of them are adjacent to other planned or existing units, and cumulative opening size will exceed 40 acres in several instances. TableL-1 in Appendix L displays openings over 40 acres that would be created with Alternative D, the alternative that harvests the most acres.

Table L-1 - Units Creating Openings > 40 Acres

WATERSHED	UNIT_ID	4114 (clearcut w/reserves)	4133 (shelterwood)	4134 (seed tree)	TOTAL
American	503,503.9,505,505.1,505.9, 508,509,512,513,541		128		128
	128,129,130		46		46
	140,141,521	29	45		74
	155,156,166,166.9,169,523, 524,525		87		87
	530,531		42		42
	542		45		45
American Total		29	393		422
Crooked	12	49			49
	33,34,35,36,36.1	138			138
	75		57		57
	6,7,8,9,23	67	112		179
	9		81		81
	69,70,71,72		53		53
	68,321	29		21	50
	47,48,49	86			86
	25,26,307		43		43
	11,11.1,12,12.1,13,14,15, 17,18	145		23	168
Crooked Total		514	346	44	904

SILVICULTURAL TREATMENT DESCRIPTIONS

CLEARCUT (WITH RESERVES)

For the purpose of this project, the term clearcut implies removal of approximately 90 percent of the trees in a stand. This differs from the conventional definition of harvest of all trees in one cut. The area harvested may be a patch, stand, or strip large enough to be mapped or recorded as a separate age class in planning. Regeneration is obtained through natural seeding, or through planting. Snags and green tree snag replacements (as available) will be retained in groups within the boundaries of the clearcut unit.

SHELTERWOOD

For the purpose of this project, a shelterwood cut is a treatment removing up to 60 percent of the tree canopy in a stand. This differs from the conventional definition of the removal of a stand of trees through a series of cuttings designed to establish a new crop with seed and protection provided by a portion of the stand.

IRREGULAR SHELTERWOOD

For the purpose of this project, an irregular shelterwood cut is a treatment that results in a patchy or irregular distribution and density of residual trees in a thinned area.

PRECOMMERCIAL THINNING

The selective felling, deadening, or removal of trees in a young stand primarily to accelerate diameter increment on the remaining stems, provide a selected species composition, maintain a specific stocking or stand density range, and improve the vigor and quality of the trees that remain.

ACTIVITY-GENERATED FUELS TREATMENT DESCRIPTION

EXCAVATOR PILE (EX. PILE)

Excavator piling is a type of mechanical piling of vegetation as a fuel treatment. This would normally be accomplished on slopes less than 40 percent. Most piles would subsequently be burned to reduce fuels.

UNDERBURN

A type of broadcast burn designed to reduce fuel accumulations beneath an overstory tree canopy (natural stand, shelterwood, seed tree, etc.) and be designed to achieve specified levels of tree mortality and/or site preparation regeneration.

BROADCAST BURN

A controlled prescribed fire designed to burn over a designated area that is usually pretreated mechanically, for reduction of fuel hazard, as a silvicultural treatment, or both.